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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO.

CD NO.

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 3 June 1952

SUBJECT 1. New Experimental Process in Manufacture of Fine Nickel Wire at Kabelwerk Koepenick
2. Suspension of Production of Nickel Wire at Koepenick and Hettstedt

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DATE OF INFO.

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

PLACE ACQUIRED [redacted] Y CABLE

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 25X1X

25X1X1. About [redacted] April 1952, Stesnov*, a Soviet official responsible for the production of fine nickel wire screen in East Germany, came to the Berlin-Adlershof plant of the Kabelwerk-Koepenick and initiated a new experimental process in the manufacture of fine nickel wire at that plant. Stesnov continued to come to the Kabelwerk-Koepenick every day to supervise this experiment until 17 April, when the first finished wire to undergo these tests was picked up by representatives of Tewa-Neustadt/Orla, to be woven into fine screen.

2. After the drawing phase is completed, the fine nickel wire is passed through 24 copper pipes (every two of which are housed in an iron pipe) into the annealing furnace. To prevent oxidation of the wire during the annealing (Glueh) process, a protective gas, propane or nitrogen, had heretofore been introduced into the annealing furnace. In the new process, this protective gas is not used. Instead, the wire is passed through a wad of absorbent cotton (Wattebausch), freshly soaked every 15 minutes with petroleum, on its way into the furnace. The absorbent wad is placed in the mouth of the pipes leading into the furnace. In this new process, the wire is passed through a felt filter after the annealing phase. The remaining oil on the surface of the wire is removed by the felt filter.

3. Although final test results of this new process have not yet been compiled, an estimated 20% of the wire was oxidized in the process and was rejected.

4. On 17 April 1952, about 3,050 rolls of 0.05 mm. wire and 3,000 rolls of 0.054 mm. wire (the average roll weighed 70 grams), which had undergone this process, were ready for delivery to the weaving plants. Stesnov then ordered the tests temporarily discontinued, until this batch of wire could be woven into fine screen and given the nitric acid test. Stesnov ordered Dombrovski, head of the wire-drawing section at the Adlershof plant, to call Director Alletsee at Tewa-Neustadt/Orla to have the finished wire picked up. This

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delivery took place on 18 April 1952. Stesnov indicated that no further tests would be performed at Kabelwerk-Koepenick until the results of the nitric acid test on the screening woven from the tested wire were known.

5. Kabelwerk-Koepenick has recently completed its running order for 13.3 tons of fine nickel wire. However, some of this has not yet been delivered to the weaving plants. On 2 April 1952, Kabelwerk-Koepenick received a new order from Tewa-Neustadt/Orla for 10.6 tons of fine nickel wire. Pending the results of the test process, work on this order has not yet been begun, and the production of fine nickel wire at Kabelwerk-Koepenick has temporarily reached a standstill.

6. By 28 May 1952, Kabelwerk-Koepenick had completed the production of 2.5 tons of fine nickel wire by using the test process described above. The work on the new order received on 2 April had not begun. At this date the production of fine nickel wire at both the Koepenick and Hettstedt plants had stopped. It is rumored that it will not be resumed. [redacted] stated that fine nickel wire screen is also being produced in the Soviet Union. 25X1

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[redacted]